

EAST GATEWAY

The City of Albuquerque is home to different cultures, backgrounds, and rich historical context. District 9, the South East corner of the city is no different. Route 66 and Interstate 40 cut through the district, bringing new visitors to the area and making it the primary gateway into Albuquerque from the east. Route 66 has been a treasured part of American history and today the City of Albuquerque has the longest stretch of the historic route. Over the years, Route 66 has become home to a fair amount of unwanted activity which has negatively impacted the perception of the area.

Councilor Harris is working to change that. Route 66 (Central Avenue) is at the heart of the priority list for Councilor Harris. Elected in 2005, Councilor Harris has focused on revitalizing what is now referred to as the East Gateway. The East Gateway Sector Development Plan (EGSDP) includes the stretch of Central from Tramway Boulevard to Wyoming Boulevard. The EGSDP is designed to navigate this aging section of Albuquerque during a vital, transitional time. Through zone changes, a vision for the future and the implementation of these changes, East Gateway is seeing the attention it needs to bounce back.

The local economy in District 9 has been a central discussion that Councilor Harris has had with constituents and business leaders. How do we change the perception of the area to be more inviting to new businesses and essential services? One of the first projects that Councilor Harris initiated was the development of a comprehensive, result-oriented plan to make a positive impact on the Central corridor. Councilor Harris has secured \$3.8M for the projects in the East Gateway area through voter approved G.O. Bonds. There are currently two primary catalyst zones that we are focusing on:

- Juan Tabo and Central: This is an area that has been stagnant primarily because of the large box store located in the Franklin Plaza (Northeast corner). Currently, the owner has found a long term lease- Big R: a farm, home and ranch family store- and will be renovating the site by the beginning of next year.**
- Tramway and Central: The Four Hills Shopping Center was recently purchased by Daskalos Investments. We reached out to the new owners and understand that the Four Hills Shopping Center will be part of a long-term investment strategy for the family. The Daskalos have expressed a desire to work on developing an immediate**

strategy to eliminate blight and give the Four Hills Shopping Center a new life. They are currently exploring different scenarios for Four Hills Shopping Center to determine what is viable. Our office is excited to support the Daskalos', or any other party who is willing to contribute to Central Avenue's success.